

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REQUEST BY SALVADORAN PRESIDENT THAT MILITARY HIGH  
COMMAND REMOVE LT. LOPEZ SIBRIAN FROM THE ARMED FORCES

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release

NOV 1993

NOV 20 1984

[REDACTED] SALVADORAN PRESIDENT [REDACTED] MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND TO REQUEST THE REMOVAL OF LT. RODELFO ISIDRO ((LOPEZ)) SIBRIAN FROM THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: LOPEZ SIBRIAN WAS ACCUSED OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE JANUARY 1981 MURDER OF TWO U.S. CITIZENS AT THE SHERATON HOTEL IN SAN SALVADOR. THE SALVADORAN SUPREME COURT ABSOLVED HIM OF THIS CHARGE IN MID-NOVEMBER 1984. PRESENT AT THE MEETING, WHICH LASTED FOR TWO HOURS, WERE DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA, VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC SECURITY COLONEL CARLOS REYNALDO ((LOPEZ)) NUILA, AND CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF COLONEL ADOLFO ONECIFERO ((BLANDON)).

2. [REDACTED] PRESIDENT DUARTE TOLD THE GROUP THAT HE HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING TO OFFSET THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION TO FREE LOPEZ SIBRIAN. [REDACTED] DUARTE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LEGALLY, HE COULD DO NOTHING, BUT BELIEVED THAT HE COULD ELIMINATE SOME OF THE STRONG CRITICISM AND POTENTIAL LOSS OF MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR FROM THE U.S. IF SOME ACTION, SUCH AS REMOVAL OF LOPEZ SIBRIAN FROM THE ARMED FORCES, WERE TAKEN.

3. [REDACTED] THE HIGH COMMAND OFFICERS APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULT POSITION IN WHICH THE LOPEZ SIBRIAN CASE HAS PUT THE PRESIDENT, BUT THEY TOLD DUARTE THAT THEY COULD NOT REMOVE LOPEZ SIBRIAN FROM THE ARMED FORCES AFTER HE HAD BEEN FOUND INNOCENT BY THE SUPREME COURT. THEY TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT

SUCH AN ACTION WOULD CREATE A VERY NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE OFFICER CORPS, ESPECIALLY AT THE CAPTAIN AND MAJOR LEVELS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE HIGH COMMAND FINALLY AGREED TO SEEK A WAY TO MOVE LOPEZ SIBRIAN OUT OF THE COUNTRY, TO A MILITARY POSTING AS AN ATTACHE, OR TO A FOREIGN MILITARY SCHOOL FOR AN EXTENDED COURSE.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AIR FORCE COMMANDER COLONEL JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)) LEARNED OF THIS DECISION [REDACTED] AND BECAME EXTREMELY ANGRY. BUSTILLO SAID THAT MOVING LOPEZ SIBRIAN OUT OF THE COUNTRY WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND WOULD HAVE A VERY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE MORALE OF THE OFFICER CORPS. BUSTILLO SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN AN EFFORT TO REVERSE THE DECISION.)

[REDACTED]